



Horned Lizard Conservation Conference Announcement!!!



We are excited to announce that the Horned Lizard Conservation Society will be conducting an "in person" conference this year on **September 28 at the Phoenix Zoo!**

Those interested in presenting at the conference may send your abstract or poster title to hornedlizardinfo@gmail.com. Please email your submission to this email by **September 1, 2024**. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words.

Save the date!!!

September 28, 2024 – In-person conference
September 29, 2024 – Field trip

Watch your inbox and our social media pages for more details coming soon...



Board of Directors

President

Cheryl Jenkins
cljenkins118@yahoo.com

Secretary

Shana Fredlake
shana.fredlake@dallaszoo.com

Member Services

Lynn Seman
rlynnseman@gmail.com

President-Elect

Rachel Alenius-Thalhuber
r.alenius@tcu.edu

Treasurer

Ryan Zach
razzoomnp@yahoo.com

Director At Large

Dalton Neuharth
dneuharth15@gmail.com

Regional Contacts

United States

Arizona

Ryan Zach
razzoomnp@yahoo.com

Colorado

Danny Martin
dannym77@lamar.colostate.edu

Oklahoma

Raymond Moody
raymond.moody@us.af.mil

Nevada

Jared A. Fuller
jaredansley@gmail.com

New Mexico

Tom McCain
tom@httom.com

Southern California

Taylor Dee
tdee@ecorpc consulting.com

Cheryl Jenkins

cljenkins118@yahoo.com

Texas

Nathan Rains
nathan.rains@tpwd.texas.gov

Wyoming

Mason Lee
masonlee3@gmail.com

Canada

Nick Cairns
nacairns@gmail.com

Mexico

Wade Sherbrooke
wcs@amnh.org

Other contacts

Phrynosomatics Editor

Leslie Nossaman
peoranun07@gmail.com

General Inquiries

hornedlizardinfo@gmail.com



Find and connect with us online

the web: www.hornedlizards.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hornedlizard/

Facebook member page: www.facebook.com/groups/HLCsmembers

Instagram: www.instagram.com/hornedlizardconservation/

YouTube channel: Horned Lizard Conservation Society

Call for Candidates - Become a Horned Lizard Conservation Society Leader!

HLCS is currently seeking nominations for a 2-4 year term for the **2025-2026 Board of Directors**. The following positions will be available beginning January 2025: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director-at-Large. Members who are interested can nominate themselves. If you choose to nominate someone else, please get their permission first. This is an exciting opportunity to get involved and support horned lizard conservation!

For the nomination, please provide a brief (up to seven sentences) biography describing any interest/expertise in leadership and/or horned lizard conservation efforts. No prior experience is required. Board members are expected to be available for correspondence via e-mail, occasional conference calls or in-person meetings. In addition to the specific duties mentioned above, board members are expected to participate in at least two virtual board meetings per year. HLCS can opt to provide travel funds to board members to attend in-person meetings or conferences.

This slate of officers should take office in January 2025 and will serve for two years. The President-Elect will then transition to the office of President for two additional years. Please contact a current board member or the President Cheryl Jenkins if you have any questions. Nominations/volunteers must be received by **September 30, 2024**.

Please submit nominations (with biographies) to President Cheryl Jenkins at cljenkins118@yahoo.com.

President-Elect - The President-Elect shall serve in the absence of the President or in the event or the incapacity or resignation of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The President-Elect shall plan and recruit committees and help plan and execute the biennial national meeting. The President-Elect becomes the President at the end of a two-year term.

Secretary - The Secretary shall be responsible for Corporate records, keep the minutes of all general membership and BOD meetings, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the BOD. The Secretary shall also be responsible for cataloguing and maintaining the supply of all publications of the Corporation and responding to requests for information from the membership and general public.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds and securities of the Corporation; receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Corporation from any source; and deposit all such moneys in the name of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be elected by the BOD. The Treasurer shall advise the BOD in preparation of an annual budget, be responsible for all financial records, and provide the BOD and the membership with written financial reports, including an annual report, sit on the Fund-Raising Committee, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the BOD.

Director-at-Large - The Director-at-Large shall be responsible for development of special projects as assigned by the Board, particularly related to integration of scientific knowledge and conservation issues - this position has been filled by a professional biologist/ecologist in the past. Whenever possible, nominees for this position should be drawn from states not otherwise represented on the BOD.



2024 Grant Recipients Announcement!

HLCS is proud to announce our 2024 grant award recipients. These projects represent valuable research and education opportunities to further horned lizard conservation and support the mission of the HLCS.

With a generous donation from Mr. Wilson Seay Stout, the following grants can be awarded for projects involving Texas Horned Lizards:

Mycha A. Van Allen, MS, Ph.D. Student at Texas A&M University Department of Veterinary Integrative Bioscience, will be working to determine if Texas horned lizards are exposed to pesticides through the consumption of sublethally-exposed ants, which are a primary food source for the lizards. This research will specifically document two types of pesticide residues that are the most widely used insecticides for ant control. In addition, the research will evaluate the prevalence and levels of pesticide residues in ant populations within the lizard's range and in lizard fecal pellets and will measure the various health parameters in captured lizards.

Kira Gangbin, Ph.D. Student at Texas Christian University, will use radio telemetry to evaluate nest-sites of natural and reintroduced populations of Texas horned lizards (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) to assess a female's ability to select a nest site based on temperature, ant abundance, soil moisture, soil compaction, and vegetation structure. This information will be used to determine if there are suitable nesting sites and adequate resources available at reintroduction sites and how to best manage land for optimum horned lizard hatching success.

Thanks to generous donations from Russell Posch along with other member donations, HLCS can award the following grants:

Ana Paulina Gamboa Navarro, a student at Universidad de la Sierra in Moctzuma, Sonora, Mexico, will be studying the dietary preferences of the Regal Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma solare*) in the Sonoran Desert, Mexico. This research will investigate the variation in its diet, focusing on the relationship with ants and ontogeny, i.e., how dietary choices change throughout its development. Using comprehensive methods, including field surveys and fecal analysis, the results will enhance conservation management by providing specific insights into the importance of ants and seeds in the lizard's diet. This research project aims to significantly contribute to the understanding and conservation of *Phrynosoma solare* in its Mexican distribution.

Leah Carpenter, 1st year master's Student of Ecology from San Diego State University, will be pioneering a new methodology for using animal-borne biologgers with AI computation to quantify detailed aspects of the behavior and ecology of the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (FTHL), a threatened flagship species in the lower Colorado desert habitat. The accelerometry data will examine behavioral shifts associated with climate change and human activity.

continued on page 5

Fabio Antonio Barcelo Ayala, an environmental Sciences Engineering Student from Sonora Institute of Technology in Obregon, Sonora, Mexico, will investigate the eco-physiology and resilience of *Phrynosoma mcallii* in northern Mexico in response to extreme temperature variations and prolonged droughts to discover how these horned lizards can adapt to a changing and extreme environment. The study will assess how *P. mcallii* (flat-tail horned lizard) manages water loss and temperature variations to gain deeper insights into their Eco physiological responses. The results obtained will provide crucial information for the conservation and effective management of this species in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss in the ecosystem of the El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de A Itar Biosphere Reserve. Furthermore, activities promoting citizen participation are proposed to engage the local community and the reserve.

Congratulations to these researchers who each received a \$1,000 grant provided to further their work!



NEW Sales Item - HLCS Collectible Coins!



Beautiful 2-inch diameter die struck coins that were designed by HLCS members. These coins are a part of a collectable series which will be released annually. The idea and the funding of these coins are through a major donation and in memoriam of Alexander Cochran. Proceeds from these coins will help fund our grant program. Start your collection today before these selections run out!



2024 HLCS Annual Horned Lizard BioBlitz Results

The 2024 HLCS Annual Horned Lizard BioBlitz took place from June 22 to June 29 all over North America! There was a total of 427 observations of horned lizards made by 200 observers in 9 regions. 10 species of horned lizards were documented this year including, *P. cornutum* (245), *P. hernandesi* (73), *P. solare* (24), *P. modestum* (24), *P. blainvillii* (23), *P. platyrhinos* (15), *P. orbiculare* (14), *P. douglasii* (3), *P. braconnieri* (1), *P. goodei* (1).



The region with the most observations this year was at first check, New Mexico, (which was posted on our social media page), but after the final check, there were some unexplained adjustments made that brought Texas/Oklahoma region ahead of New Mexico. Could there be some Texan/Oklahomans exploring in New Mexico who decided to withdraw some original observations? We may never know! Whatever the reason, we will say that all who saw a horned lizard came out as a winner!

You can find more details of the BioBlitz here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2024-horned-lizard-bioblitz>

<p>Canada, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho – 12 observations, 3 species</p>	 <p>HORNED LIZARD CONSERVATION SOCIETY www.hornedlizards.org</p>	<p>Mexico - 25 observations, 5 species</p>	
<p>New Mexico – 105 observations, 3 species</p> <p>🏆1 ? 🏆2</p>		<p>2024 Annual Horned Lizard BioBlitz Results</p> <p>Thank you to all the participants!</p> <p>Top 3 Overall Observers: Josué González Grace Laskey Maya Morales</p>	<p>Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas - 82 observations, 2 species</p> <p>🏆3</p>
<p>Utah – 8 observations, 2 species</p>			<p>Nevada – 6 observations, 1 species</p>
<p>Arizona – 43 observations, 2 species</p>	<p>Texas/Oklahoma – 121 observations, 3 species</p> <p>🏆1 ? 🏆2</p>		<p>California – 25 observations, 3 species</p>



President's Message

by Cheryl Jenkins

The hot days of late summer bring plenty of opportunities to get out and look for horned lizards in their natural environment. Be sure to tread lightly and stay on trails to prevent damage to the delicate ecosystems and injury to yourself. Be sure to document your sightings in and please send us any ethically taken photos of horned lizards you encounter on your hikes. You can document horned lizard sightings on our iNaturalist project all year round: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/hlcs-horned-lizard-documentation-project>. Please don't provide exact locations of your sightings, just a general vicinity. Also, check out the article in this newsletter about the most recent horned lizard BioBlitz that took place in June 2024!

Our 2024 HLCS Grant recipients have been awarded their funds and are getting started or continuing their research projects. We will be featuring articles about our past and present grant recipients here in our newsletters and on our social media pages. The application window for the 2025 grant program will begin in December 2024. Our grant program would not be possible without your generous donations, so thank you for contributing to horned lizard conservation! Another way you can help provide funding to our grant program is by purchasing items from our HLCS store which is now being managed by our wonderful membership coordinator, Lynn Seman and her husband Lee. Thank you, Lynn and Lee, for all your help!

Our in-person HLCS meeting and conference is coming up **September 28**, with a field trip planned for September 29, in Phoenix, Arizona. Please look for the article in this newsletter and for additional details via email and social media pages. If you would like to give a presentation about your horned lizard research, please let us know. Poster presentations are also welcome. We encourage our next generation of horned lizard conservationists to participate too. Hope to see you all there!

HLCS Board elections are right around the corner! We will be seeking to fill President Elect, Secretary, Director at Large, and Treasurer positions. If you are interested in being part of the HLCS Board, please reach out for more information. It has been a fun and fulfilling role for me these past 3 ½ years and I look forward to welcoming in the next generation of horned lizard enthusiasts to the board.

As always, if you know of any upcoming events that might benefit from having an HLCS educational booth or sponsored field trip, or if you are interested in volunteering at any events, please let us know.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay cool!





Return Service Requested

PLEASE JOIN US! Students/Seniors: \$10; Regular: \$25; Contributing: \$50; Lifetime: \$300

Families: \$25 for the first person and \$10 for each additional member

HLCS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Table of Contents

Horned Lizard Conservation Conference Announcement!!!p 1
Call for Candidates - Become a Horned Lizard Conservation Society Leader!.....p 3
2024 Grant Recipients Announcement!p 4
New Sales Item - HLCS Collectible Coins!.....p 5
2024 Annual Horned Lizard Bioblitz Resultsp 6
President's Messagep 7
Cheryl Jenkins

Phrynosomatics is also sent electronically. Contact the HLCS Member Services Officer to get on the email distribution list.